

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING  
CONDUCTS EFFECTIVENESS STUDY ON PREPARATION  
FOR TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS**

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing has launched a study to test the effectiveness of preparing teachers to instruct California’s 1.5 million English learners.

“The Commission looks forward to the results of this study,” stated P. David Pearson, Chair of the Commission. “Over one quarter of our students are English learners. Teachers in California must have the knowledge and skills to help all students succeed.”

A 1998 law required that the knowledge and skills to teach English learners be incorporated into preparation programs for elementary and secondary teachers. Prior to that, teachers could earn an “add-on” certificate that authorized this instruction. Teacher preparation programs were updated and, for the past four years, new teachers have graduated with an English learner authorization earned as a part of their program.

While the new programs are required to address the knowledge and skills needed to successfully instruct students who are English learners, there is some questions about how well the new “incorporated” approach is working. To that end, the Commission will ask graduates of the program to volunteer to take a proven exam that covers this skill set in depth. The Commission will provide a small monetary incentive and will cover the cost of the exam. How well the graduates do on the exam will help the Commission determine the “next steps” needed to ensure effective preparation for teaching students who are English learners.

Preliminary findings will be released in early October.

More information about the study can be found at:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-04/2007-04-6G.pdf>

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